



News Release

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Jamestown Business Owner named SBA's Region VIII Young Entrepreneur of the Year

FARGO – Amber Burkett, owner of Wire Worx in Jamestown, has been named the SBA's *2006 Region VIII and North Dakota Young Entrepreneur of the Year*. This annual award recognizes a small business owner, less than 30 years of age, who exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit. Jim Lees, business development specialist for the North Dakota Small Business Development Center, nominated Burkett for the award. Burkett was selected after a statewide and region-wide competition. SBA's Region VIII consists of Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and North Dakota.

Throughout high school and college, Amber Burkett had dreamed of one day owning her own business. Working at a small restaurant while attending college didn't leave her much time or money, but in December of 2002 her dream became a reality. With \$200 in her checking account and working out of a small garage with one employee, Burkett started installing remote car starters for local auto dealerships. With help from the North Dakota Small Business Development Center in Jamestown, Burkett was able to develop a business plan which was vital to securing additional financing for her business. With the business plan in hand, Burkett applied for an SBA Microloan, through the Lake Agassiz Regional Council, for additional working capital and inventory.

Today, the company continues to sell and install automotive electronics such as remote starters, cruise controls, and heated seats but has also expanded its services to include the sale

and installation of commercial and residential audio and video systems such as custom home theaters, home control systems, distributed audio, and networking. Wire Worx is currently located in downtown Jamestown and employs 2 full-time and 2 part-time people.

“The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in North Dakota,” proclaimed Elton W. Ringsak, SBA’s Region VIII Administrator in Denver. “I congratulate Amber Burkett for her innovative approach to starting her business in Jamestown. Winning this award proves that people of all ages can start and grow a business if they have a great business plan, and the willingness to work hard and succeed.”

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In recognition of the small business community’s contribution to the American economy and society, the President of the United States designates one week each year as National Small Business Week. This year it is April 9-15, 2006. Leading up to that week, the U.S. Small Business Administration, a federal agency dedicated to assisting small business owners start and expand their businesses, presents awards honoring the nation’s entrepreneurs and small business champions.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year nominations are judged on four basic criteria: evidence of success as measured by sales and profits, increased employment opportunities created by the nominee’s business, development and/or utilization of innovative business methods, and demonstrated entrepreneurial potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth.

For more information on all of the SBA’s programs for small businesses, visit the SBA’s North Dakota website at www.sba.gov/nd/.

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